

From: [Tricia Pfeiffer](#)
To: [Johanna Miller](#); [Kyle Olson](#); [Adam Eisele](#)
Subject: Fw: Air Quality Check, Schilke farm section
Date: 03/15/2012 04:21 PM

FYI

Tricia Rios Pfeiffer, Engineer
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----- Forwarded by Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US on 03/15/2012 04:21 PM -----

From: "Roberts, Kris D." <kroberts@nd.gov>
To: Tricia Pfeiffer/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: "Semerad, Jim L." <jsemerad@nd.gov>, "Fewless, Dennis R." <dfewless@nd.gov>, "Glatt, Dave D." <dglatt@nd.gov>
Date: 03/15/2012 03:34 PM
Subject: Air Quality Check, Schilke farm section



At the request of Jim Semerad of the ND DoH Air Quality Division, by cell phone contact while I was in the immediate area, I carried out a rudimentary air quality surveillance of the area enclosing the Schilke farm northwest of Williston, North Dakota. I received the request by cell phone, during a call I placed to Mr. Semerad for another reason at approximately 12 noon on March 14, 2012. During the conversation, he indicated that an e-mail had been received from Mrs. Schilke while we were talking, indicating that air quality in the area had been extremely bad on March 13 when the wind was from the south, and was nearly as bad on March 14 (email copy attached).

I had with me a 4 gas meter (air pump equipped), as well as a hydrogen sulfide monitor (I was working oil field issues). In addition, I have regularly gone through (and passed) odor evaluator certification many times over the years. My latest certification was in May, 2010.

The following is the data I collected:

Started circuit 13:08 CDT. Breeze brisk from W-SW, temperature 50 F.

4 gas meter and H2S meter both calibrated 2/24/2012, with 161 days remaining on the calibration.

All readings taken with all SUV windows open, and internal environmental system shut down, to allow full air flow.

NW Sec corner – 13:08

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

N ¼ line (1/2 mile east of NW quarter) (downwind from Oasis well sites)

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

NE Sec Corner (north of Schilke Farmstead) – 13:20

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

Detected slight, normal, animal farmyard odor as I passed downwind of the Schilke farmstead and barns

E ¼ line (1/2 mile south of NE corner)

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

SE Sec Corner (south of Schilke Farmstead) – 13:29

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

S ¼ line (1/2 mile west of SE corner)

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

SW Sec Corner – 13:36

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

W ¼ line (1/2 mile north of SW corner) – nearly directly upwind of Schilke farmstead)

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

NW Sec Corner – 13:43

4-Gas: H2S – 0 ppm, CO – 0 ppm, O2 – 20.9%, LEL – 0%

H2S monitor: 0 ppm

No odors detected

Wind direction from W-SW and brisk. Temp still 50 F. Did not exceed 25 mph during circuit.

During stop at E ¼ line, a pickup driven by a woman pulled up behind my vehicle. She made no attempt to either get my attention or get out of her vehicle. When I finished my reading, I moved to the next site. As I was moving there, I saw the pickup pull back into the Schilke farmstead.

This completes my report.

Kris Roberts
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Attachments:

1)

From: jacki [<mailto:jboid@dia.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 10:07 AM
To: Semerad, Jim L.
Subject: air quality

Jim there has got to be some kind of a problem out in this area today, possibly a gas leak, rupture, trouble with the pipeline, the air is absolutely terrible with gas. The flare on the Oasis well has been put on line I am told so I would think out air would be better not worse. Some days this flare burns and others it is not. I was up most of the night due to air quality, my head just pounds this

morning. My eyes, throat and nose just burn. It is so bad my dog is hiding in the basement stairwell trying to get away from it and he won't come outside. I know there is a frack job to the east several miles but I wouldn't think we are getting this much gas of of that job.

2)

From: jacki [<mailto:jboid@dia.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:08 PM
To: Semerad, Jim L.
Cc: pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: Re: air concern

The problem seemed to be coming from the south yesterday, although the air quality is almost as bad today. I am not sure what is to gain by just checking wind direction without doing any testing with canisters and the hand held meter used by the ND Health Dept tells us absolutely nothing -will not even detect the gases we are dealing with. I ordered 2 more suma canisters today, seems the flare being out at the Oasis well site has not solved any problems out here, I suspect there are still gasses coming off that site and others in the area. I had a meeting yesterday with environment company, the fact that the flare is does not mean gases are not still being released, these systems fail quite often and it is possible we are getting even more gas than before, I suspect this may be what is going on. Steve has extensive knowledge on this operation, and is probably one of the most experienced techs in this area he also said this is a very poor system and if not installed and checked properly it has high failure rate. He has found a very high percentage of sure fire system in the area he works not working properly, not even installed correctly. Seems the equation of many wells, many inexperienced and untrained personnel working in the field equals disaster in this case.

The expense of testing we have been forced to do to find the cause of this problem as gotten quite out of hand, The cost of just 1 air test is over \$600.00, I do not think it is right that a private land owner should have this burden when it is the responsibility of the state to ensure this industry is safe to the public.

----- Original Message -----

From: [Semerad, Jim L.](#)
To: [Tricia Pfeiffer](#) ; [Schumacher, Tom O.](#) ; [jacki](#)
Cc: [O'Clair, Terry L.](#)
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:41 AM
Subject: RE: air concern

Fyi:

In response to the complaint below, we have contacted Oasis and reviewed meteorological

information over the period in question (see email below).

Based on this information, it does not appear that there is an obvious source of air contaminants that may be the cause of the problem. This is contrary to the information provided in the email (pipeline issue). We will conduct an air quality complaint inspection the next time we are in the area, as we have done in the past. However, our inspections have not shown problems (measurements or odors) so we have not been able to find the problem or provide any solutions to any of the issues that Jacki has complained of that relate to ambient air quality.

3)

From: jacki [<mailto:jboid@dia.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:36 PM
To: Semerad, Jim L.
Cc: pfeiffer.Tricia@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: ND State Vehicle

Was just out side working, it is about 1:25 pm on Wednesday, March 14, noticed a white vehicle driving very slow around our property, and then went to the approach to the south of our house in our field and stopped. I got in my pickup and drove down to see what was going on, it is ND State Vehicle, has a sticker on it that states this. No one in the vehicle attempted to get out, when they saw me they drove off. I would certainly hope that if there were a ND Health Dept employee in the area doing testing that they would come into our yard and onto our property and do some testing since this seem to be of the most concern. If you happen to have contact with them please call, I will be around the ranch all day working, it is very windy today but they may be able to do testing.

Personal Note from Kris Roberts:

The last report I had from the Schilke's was that they denied entry to their property to anyone from the DoH.